(a) whether Government is aware that Andhra Pradesh Virginia tobacco growers are being adversely affected due to Free Trade Agreements with some countries;

(b) whether Government are holding any discussion in this regard;

(c) what steps will be taken to exempt such products from Free Trade Agreements which will negatively impact Andhra farmers; and

(d) what steps will be taken to review all such Free Trade Agreements which negatively affect farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is no adverse effect of Free Trade Agreements on the Andhra Pradesh Virginia tobacco growers. The averge price realization by growers and the export of FCV tobacco is improving every year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) While entering into FTAs with various countries, the interests of farmers are kept uppermost in mind.

Promotion of trade and export

†13. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to spend money for promotion of trade and export in foreign countries during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(b) the details of industries of Madhya Pradesh selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. For export promotion, assistance is provided under Market Development Assistance and Market Access Initiative schemes.

(b) Under MDA and MAI schemes, assistance is provided to EPCs and other Approved Trade Bodies and Agencies. No specific industry or company is selected.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.